

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

REVIEW CRITERIA
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1993

**CRITERIA NUMBER 17 - LATERAL LIGAMENT ANKLE RECONSTRUCTION
FOR CHRONIC INSTABILITY OF ANKLE**

I. Narrative Description:

A. Lateral Ligament Ankle Reconstruction

II. History/Symptoms:

A. Must meet the following:

1. Instability of the ankle
 - a. Buckling; **or**
 - b. Giving away

OR

2. Supportive Findings:
 - a. Complaint of swelling; **or**
 - b. Complaint of pain

AND

III. Physical Findings:

A. Must meet the following:

1. Positive anterior drawer

AND

IV. Diagnostic Testing:

A. Abnormal test results of the following:

1. Must meet **a** and **b**, or **c**
 - a. Positive stress x-rays identifying motion at the ankle or subtalar joint, at least 15° lateral opening at the ankle joint; **or**
 - b. Demonstrable subtalar movement; **and**
 - c. Negative to minimal arthritic joint changes on x-ray.

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EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1993

Page Two
Criteria Number 17

AND

V. Failure to improve with conservative treatment with:

- A.** Immobilization with support cast or brace; **or**
- B.** Rehabilitation program
- C.** For either of the above, the time frame will vary dependent on the severity of the injury/trauma.

VI. Special Instructions:

- A.** *None*

VII. Level of Care Required:

- A.** *Outpatient or Inpatient depending on patient*